



## Spring Fling

Spring Fling is one of the most anticipated events of the year and for obvious reasons. There's no better way for enjoying warmer days than with good food, good friends, good music and lots of fun games and activities. But what makes this occasion even better is when busy staff take the initiative to connect with our individuals and engage them in activities they enjoy. R: Maintenance Director, Eric Titus, takes time to shoot-some-hoops with Davonta.



## Touch-a-Truck

This year several businesses and public utilities joined BRC's Spring Fling and offered individuals and staff an opportunity to get up close and personal with many of their vehicles and other machinery. L: Southern Pine Electric Company's lineman, Brandon Stringer, demonstrates how to operate the boom on one of their pole trucks. (see p, 6)



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### **The Boswell Bulletin**

is published without cost to inform the public, employees, friends and family of Boswell Regional Center's activities, programs and progress. This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in the work conducted by BRC employees to enrich the lives of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

### **Mission Statement**

Boswell Regional Center offers specialized program options to Mississippians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. These programs are designed to identify the necessary supports for successful community transition. With collaboration between the person, family, and community, dreams can become a reality



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information in this  
publication,  
please contact  
Public Relations:  
(601) 867-5078**

**It's time to renew... just \$5**



**It benefits you  
&  
the individuals we serve.**

**BRC's Friends and Family Association's fiscal year extends from  
April 1st - March 31st**

Anyone not currently giving through payroll deduction is encouraged to renew their membership as soon as possible.

Contact Public Relations to have your membership renewed through a one-time gift of \$5 or more, or sign up for payroll deduction and give as little or as much as you'd like.

☎ **601-867-5078**

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# WELCOME!

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

### 1st April Class

#### Top Row (L to R)

Diana Holland  
Alexis Newsome

#### Bottom Row (L to R)

Mary Simmons  
Betty Walker  
Kiara Buckley  
not pictured:  
Shiann Craft



### 2nd April Class

#### Top Row (L to R)

Karlie Williamson  
Zaquavis Brown  
Cyniya Owens  
Jacob Smith

#### Bottom Row (L to R)

Leslie Harrison  
Elexis Jones  
Savannah Jones  
Marvis Stewart



# BRC Community Ladies Receive Spotlight in DMH Newsletter

## Mississippi PROFILE

A Publication of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
March 2024



Each month of 2024 the MS Dept. of Mental Health is committed to spotlighting individuals from across the state and giving them an opportunity to share success stories of how their lives were changed for the better through services provided under the DMH umbrella. In this video, Gracie Earnest (L) and Wendy Bunt (R) share personal accounts of what life was like before receiving services at Boswell Regional Center and how this experience has positively impacted their independence and opportunities.

Another Successful Friends & Family Fundraiser  
in the books!



Traditionally, BRC has hosted the Masquerade Jewelry and Accessories \$5 sale in the Training Center on campus to raise funds for the Friends & Family Association. This year the sale was held at Dream Extreme, a more centrally-located area, in hopes of increasing community participation, and that's exactly what happened. People driving by and those on their lunch breaks kept Kerri East, Director of Dream Extreme, and the Masquerade staff busy throughout this two-day event. As with every event, the majority of the work takes place behind the scene, so it was all-hands-on-deck getting the truck unloaded, setting up, and then re-

loading the truck with unsold merchandise. As always, the unsung heroes from BRC's Maintenance/Grounds Dept. were happy to lend a hand, and we are so very appreciative of their willingness to serve in this area. Thank you to everyone who came out to help make this sale a success. A special thank you to Kerri, her staff, and the Community Individuals for graciously allowing us to invade their space, re-arrange their furniture, and completely disrupt their scheduled activities. And thank you, to everyone at Connections also for being so accommodating.

SPRING FLING 2024

*"Finding Joy in the Journey"*



# Employees of the 1st Quarter & Longevity Service Awards

“

Myricks has gone above and beyond by being the spiritual influencer for BRC's individuals during Special Olympics. He has been seen staying up in the middle of the night, looking after individuals from other areas and then ensuring these individuals were returned to their proper destinations.

**Cassie Bynum**

”

## Support/Professional: Mryicks Cole



## Campus: Erica Hobbs



“

Erica is very self-motivated and always makes sure the individuals are neatly groomed. She does not have to be directed to do anything; she takes initiative and does things that are not even her responsibility. She does a great job overall and never complains. She brings joy to the environment, and our individuals love to be assisted by her because she is so kind and respectful.

**Chris Barron**

”

“

Over the past 6 months, Barbara has displayed a good, positive attitude, which allows the houses to flow harmoniously. She has the amazing ability to mold: mother, sister, and mentor all into one. She is a constant presence in the ever-changing landscape called, B-Shift, and she continues to a solid rock that allows this shift to both stand and thrive.

**Eric Brown**

”

## Group Homes: Barbara Washington



### *Leadership: Arthur Milton*



“Arthur almost single-handedly ran all four units on campus recently. He is often called to handle tough situations with staff, and he has built such a rapport with them that he can resolve issues better than most anyone. He is both a mentor and an encourager, and his hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to current supervisors and staff who may desire leadership opportunities.

*Mollye Hancock*

“Will comes in on his days off to play piano at Day Services and goes on Special Olympic trips. He takes clients to different free events in the community that they enjoy and helped decorate for the Community Christmas Party last year. He does an excellent job of making sure the clients' home has nutritious meals prepared, and he encourages them to help in the kitchen. He goes above and beyond with the individuals he assists.

*Sarah Spoonhour*

### *Community: Will Harper*



### *Jeramy “Chunky” Little*

# 20

*Years of Service in  
State Government*





## Another Picture-Perfect Day for a Parade

The Simpson County Bicentennial Committee kicked off its two-week spotlight of The City of Magee with another impressive downtown parade. And in keeping with its unmatched parade reputation, BRC launched yet another show-stopping float that managed to capture the history and spirit of the former MS State TB Sanatorium in perfect balance. As always, the vision and hard work of Kerri East and the BRC Maintenance Department did not disappoint.

### **Right:**

Director Clint Ashley receives certificate recognizing BRC for its long-standing contributions to Simpson County.



# Members of the Community Enjoy Sunday at the 'San'



BRC Director, Clint Ashley, reflects on the origin of the "San", its impact on Simpson County, and the continuation of Dr. Boswell's legacy through the supports and services at BRC for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The beautiful BRC Auditorium was met with near capacity, as The Simpson County Community Choir brought a remarkable performance of many of the most memorable and treasured gospel hymns of all times.



Members of the community were invited to enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch while fully surrounded by history in the BRC Dining Hall



Special Guest, Minnie Holloway, had the entire audience captivated by her unique and mesmerizing vocal performance.



Making the occasion even more special, members of the late Dr. Henry Boswell's family traveled from out of state to join residents in commemorating Simpson County's Bicentennial anniversary.

Left: Grandchildren visit the Sanatorium Museum and reminisce while watching a simulated video of Dr. Boswell.

Right: Committee Chairperson, Jean Allen, shares childhood memories with the family. **10**

# BRC's Friends and Family Assoc. Annual Meeting & Employee of the Year



*Sponsored by:*



*Lovely and Delicious!  
Cake made by Cynthia Adams*



*Mrs. Mary Garner from Connections  
Named BRC's EOY 2023*



*Special guests representing  
Joni & Friends Mississippi*



*Lee Middleton of Lyle Machinery  
receiving special gift for donation*



*Delicious reception created by  
BRC's Nutritional Services*



*F & F Board Members, BRC Director,  
& Special Guests with EOY 2023*

# **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

## *Employee of the Year 2023:*



## *Mary Garner*

Mary is a Direct Support Professional III and serves at Connections, Community Day Services Adult. Her career at Boswell began 18 years ago at the Work Activity Center (WAC) where she served for several years before coming to Connections. She says she loves her job, that it's fun and easy. "I get to play games with the clients, and I really like working in the kitchen." When asked about being named Employee of the Year, Mary says it came as a complete surprise to her, but that she knew something was up when she saw her husband, Harold, sitting in the audience. Supervisor, Tonya George, says the award couldn't have gone to a better person. "Mary encourages the clients to assist her in the kitchen, which helps to strengthen their cooking/dining skills. She teaches them that having a disability doesn't mean they can't do something, it just means they may have to do things differently." As EOY, Mary will represent the staff at BRC by serving as a voting member of the F&F Board for one full year. But, As much as she loves her job, Mary says she is really looking forward to retiring in June 2025 and being able to spend more time with her three granddaughters ages 13, 12, and 5. Congratulations, Mary!

# April = Autism Awareness!

## Goodwater Celebrates Backyard Cookout Style



# Autism Day at Brookhaven



# ***BRC Spring Pageant***

## ***ICF Campus***



# ***BRC Spring Pageant***

## ***ICF Group Homes***



# ***BRC Spring Pageant Community***





# Hello, May!

## Upcoming Events:

- 8 -LEO Torch Run 1:00 Green Park
- 9 -Campus Fishing Rodeo, 9-11 am  
BRC Lake
- Events Team Meeting 1:30 p.m.  
Administration Conference Rm.
- 10 -Community Fishing Rodeo  
Prentiss Walker Lake, Mize
- 10-12 -MS Special Olympic Summer Games  
Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS
- 12 -Mother's Day
- 15 -Co-Lin Graduation, 10:00 a.m.  
BRC Auditorium
- 17 -Employee Appreciation Cookout  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Green Park